

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1-34. (Canceled)

35. (Currently amended) A method for searching a corpus of documents, comprising:
defining a knowledge domain;
identifying a set of reference documents in the corpus pertinent to the domain;
searching the corpus using the set of reference documents to find one or more of the documents in the corpus that contain information in the domain relevant to ~~the~~ a first query; and
adding at least one of the found documents to the set of reference documents for use in searching the corpus for information in the domain relevant to a second, subsequent query, which is substantially different from the first query.

36. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 35, wherein inputting the first query comprises inputting one or more search terms.

37. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 36, wherein searching the corpus comprises finding lexical characteristics of terms in the reference documents and refining the search terms using the lexical characteristics.

38. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 35, wherein inputting the first query comprises specifying one or more documents representative of the information to be found in the corpus.

39. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 35, wherein searching the corpus comprises searching the corpus to find the documents that contain the information relevant to the query and ranking the found documents by comparing them to the set of reference documents.

40. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 39, wherein ranking the found documents comprises evaluating a textual resemblance between the found documents and the reference documents.

41. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 39, wherein ranking the found documents comprises assessing links between the found documents and the reference documents.

42. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 39, wherein adding the at least one of the found documents comprises adding at least the document having the highest ranking.

43. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 35, wherein adding the at least one of the found documents comprises removing one of the documents from the set responsive to adding the at least one of the found documents.

44. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 43, and comprising tracking a level of relevance of the reference documents to the queries, and wherein removing the one of the documents comprises removing one of the reference documents whose tracked level of relevance is low.

45. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 35, wherein the corpus comprises at least a part of the World Wide Web, and the documents comprise Web pages, and wherein searching the corpus comprises conveying the query to one or more Web search engines.

46. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 45, wherein inputting the first query comprises receiving the query from a user of a pervasive device, and wherein searching the corpus comprises searching while the device is disconnected from the Web.

47. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 35, wherein identifying the set of reference documents comprises opening one or more files of a knowledge base on a computer in which data regarding the reference documents are saved.

48. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 47, wherein identifying the set of reference documents comprises identifying the set of documents used by a first user in searching the corpus, and wherein opening the one or more files comprises copying the files for use by a second user in searching the corpus for information in the domain.

49. (Previously presented) A method for searching a corpus of documents containing terms, comprising:

- defining a knowledge domain;
- identifying a set of reference documents in the corpus pertinent to the domain;
- finding lexical affinities of the terms in the reference documents, the lexical affinities of a given term comprising other terms that co-occur with the given term in sentences in the reference documents, such that the other terms are separated from the given term in the sentences by no more than a predetermined number of words;
- inputting a search query comprising query terms;
- refining the search query using the lexical affinities of the query terms that were found in the reference documents; and
- searching the corpus to find information in the domain responsive to the refined query.

50. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 49, wherein the search query comprises search terms, and wherein refining the search query comprises adding to the search terms further terms found to have lexical affinity to the search terms.

51. (Previously presented) Apparatus for searching a corpus of documents, comprising:
a memory, adapted to store an identification of a set of reference documents in the corpus pertinent to a predefined knowledge domain; and
a search processor, which responsive to receiving a first query as input, is adapted to search the corpus using the set of reference documents to find one or more of the documents in the corpus that contain information in the domain relevant to the first query, and to add at least one of the found documents to the set of reference documents stored in the memory for use in searching the corpus for information in the domain relevant to a second, subsequent query, which is substantially different from the first query.

52. (Previously presented) The apparatus according to claim 51, wherein the processor is adapted to find lexical characteristics of the terms in the reference documents and to refine the search query using the lexical characteristics.

53. (Previously presented) The apparatus according to claim 51, wherein the processor is adapted to receive the documents found to contain the information relevant to the query and to rank the found documents by comparing them to the set of reference documents.

54. (Previously presented) The apparatus according to claim 53, wherein the processor is adapted to add to the corpus at least the document having the highest ranking.

55. (Previously presented) The apparatus according to claim 51, wherein the processor is adapted to remove one of the documents from the set responsive to adding the at least one of the found documents.

56. (Previously presented) The apparatus according to claim 51, wherein the corpus comprises at least a part of the World Wide Web, and the documents comprise Web pages, and wherein the processor is adapted to search the corpus by conveying the query to one or more Web search engines.

57. (Previously presented) The apparatus according to claim 51, wherein the processor is adapted to receive the query over a communication link from a user of a pervasive device, and to search the corpus while the communication link is disconnected.

58. (Previously presented) Apparatus for searching a corpus of documents containing terms, comprising:

a memory, adapted to store an identification of a set of reference documents in the corpus pertinent to a predefined knowledge domain; and

a search processor, which is adapted to find lexical affinities of the terms in the reference documents, the lexical affinities of a given term comprising other terms that co-occur with the given term in sentences in the reference documents, such that the other terms are separated from the given term in the sentences by no more than a predetermined number of words, and responsive to receiving a query comprising query terms as input, is adapted to refine the search query using the lexical affinities of the query terms that were found in the reference documents and to search the corpus to find information in the domain responsive to the refined query.

59. (Currently amended) A computer software product for searching a corpus of documents, the product comprising:

a computer-readable medium in which program instructions are stored, which instructions, when read by a computer, cause the computer to receive a definition of a knowledge domain and an identification of a set of reference documents in the corpus pertinent to the

domain, and further cause the computer, responsive to a first query, to search the corpus using the set of reference documents to find one or more of the documents in the corpus that contain information in the domain relevant to the first query, and to add at least one of the found documents to the set of reference documents for use in searching the corpus for information in the domain relevant to a second, subsequent query, which is substantially different from the first query.

60. (Previously presented) The product according to claim 59, wherein the corpus comprises the World Wide Web, and the documents comprise Web pages, and wherein the instructions cause the computer to search the Web by conveying the query to one or more Web search engines.

61. (Previously presented) The product according to claim 60, wherein the instructions cause the computer to receive the first query from a pervasive device, and to search the Web while the pervasive device is disconnected from the Web.

62. (Currently amended) A computer software product for searching a corpus of documents, the product comprising:

a computer-readable medium in which program instructions are stored, which instructions, when read by a computer, cause the computer to receive a definition of a knowledge domain and an identification of a set of reference documents in the corpus pertinent to the domain and to find lexical affinities of the terms in the reference documents, the lexical affinities of a given term comprising other terms that co-occur with the given term in sentences in the reference documents, such that the other terms are separated from the given term in the sentences by no more than a predetermined number of words, and further cause the computer, responsive to a query comprising query terms, to refine the search query using the lexical affinities of the query terms that were found in the

reference documents and to search the corpus to find information in the domain responsive to the refined query.